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IN THE UNITED STATES' PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kay HOFMANN

Serial No.: New

Filing Date: July 20, 2001

For: PROTEASE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3 through 8 and 13 as follows:

3. (amended) The protease according to claim 1, characterized by having one of the sequences SEQ ID Nos. 1 to 8 and 18, 19.

4. (amended) Nucleic acids coding for a protease according to claim 1, preferably having SEQ ID No. 9-17 or 20.

5. (amended) Inhibitors, characterized by inhibiting the expression or activity of the protease according to claim 1.

6. (amended) An antibody directed against the protease according to claim 1.

7. (amended) A method for the identification of inhibitors, characterized in that the activity of the proteases is measured according to claim 1 in the presence of potential inhibitors.